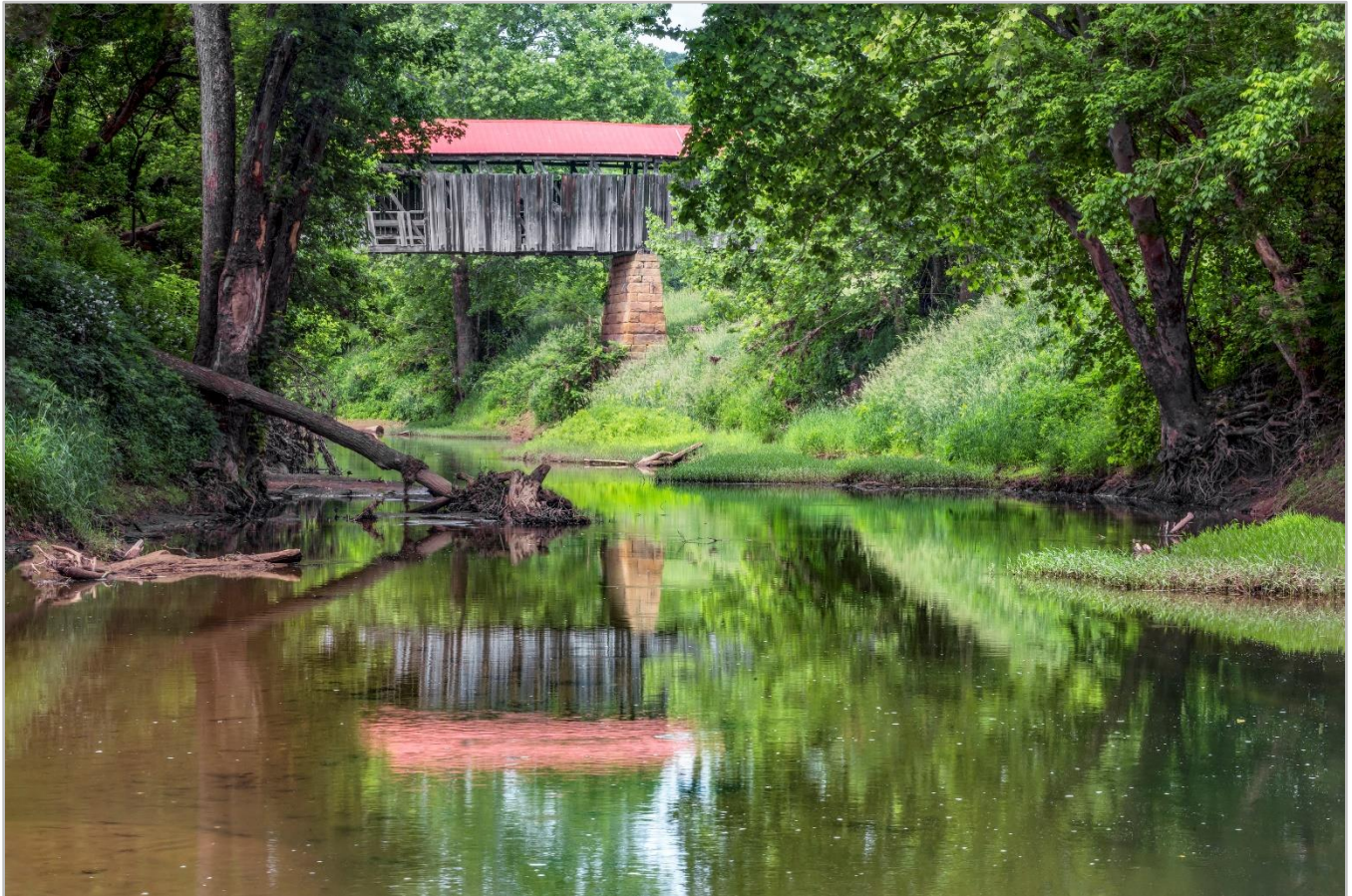




**State Fiscal Year 2021**

*July 1, 2020 — June 30, 2021*

# Annual Report



*Historic Knowlton covered bridge is seen reflected in the waters of the Little Muskingum River in rural Monroe County, Ohio. This old bridge collapsed in the summer of 2019. Getty Images.*

**July 2021**

## Message from the Director

This year's annual report highlights some of our many accomplishments as an Agency during State Fiscal Year 2021 (SFY21).

We've accomplished much across all programs over the past fiscal year, including significant permit activity, processing rule packages, funding drinking water and wastewater infrastructure projects, and conducting several training and outreach events. I'm particularly proud of our accomplishments under the unusual circumstances of 2020. Our ability to adapt quickly to continue our core work and complete projects is due to the commitment and hard work of our team at Ohio EPA. The use of innovative approaches and tools by our teams to accomplish our work will also yield long-term benefits for our Agency.

One key focus area for Ohio EPA during SFY20 has been supporting Governor DeWine's water quality priorities under H2Ohio and our statewide action plan for per- and polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) substances.

H2Ohio is a comprehensive, data-driven approach to long-term improvements in water quality in the Lake Erie basin and statewide. H2Ohio focuses on reducing phosphorus, creating wetlands, improving infrastructure, addressing failing septic systems, and preventing lead contamination. H2Ohio is a collaborative effort between the Ohio EPA, the Ohio Department of Agriculture, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, the Lake Erie Commission, and many external experts and stakeholders invested in water quality improvements.

Ohio EPA is a proud partner in H2Ohio, and this annual report highlights projects that we are supporting to provide drinking water and wastewater infrastructure to smaller, economically disadvantaged communities. In addition, we are supporting the replacement of failing home septic systems in several Ohio counties and are addressing lead service lines and fixtures in childcare facilities.

In September 2019, Governor DeWine asked Ohio EPA and the Ohio Department of Health to analyze the prevalence of PFAS in Ohio's drinking water. This plan was announced in December 2019 and Ohio EPA secured the services of environmental contractors and testing labs to analyze samples from approximately 1,500 public water systems statewide. We met our goal to complete testing of these systems by the end of 2020. All testing information from Ohio EPA and other helpful information is available through a website jointly administered by Ohio EPA and ODH at [epa.ohio.gov/pfas](https://epa.ohio.gov/pfas).

In addition to these major water quality initiatives, Ohio EPA saw significant accomplishments in other program areas, including continued improvements in air quality throughout the state. We continue to make progress on more effectively managing wastes, increasing recycling, cleaning up tires, and supporting the redevelopment of brownfield sites. Throughout the entire pandemic, we retained statewide emergency response capabilities with our team of highly-experience professionals who assist communities every day in responding to environmental spills, releases, and other emergency incidents.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laurie A. Stevenson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Laurie A. Stevenson, Director

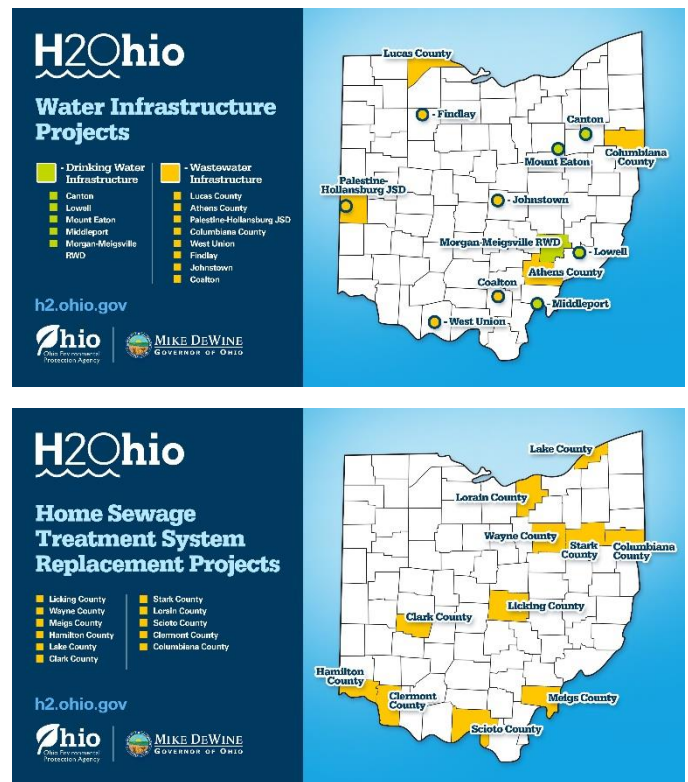
## H2Ohio – Protecting Ohio’s Water

H2Ohio is a comprehensive, data-driven approach to long-term improvements in water quality in the Lake Erie basin and statewide. H2Ohio focuses on reducing phosphorus, creating wetlands, improving infrastructure, addressing failing septic systems, and preventing lead contamination. H2Ohio is a collaborative effort between the Ohio EPA, the Ohio Department of Agriculture, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, the Lake Erie Commission, and many external experts and stakeholders invested in water quality improvements.

Ohio EPA entered into 25 grant agreements for H2Ohio projects. A total of 13 drinking water and wastewater infrastructure projects were partially funded through \$7.4 million in H2Ohio grants. Ohio EPA was able to successfully leverage the H2Ohio grants with principal forgiveness and grant funding from other funding agencies.

Eleven H2Ohio grants totaling \$1.65 million were awarded to local health districts throughout Ohio. These grant awards will supplement principal forgiveness and allow the health districts to assist even more low-income homeowners in repairing and replacing failing household sewage treatment systems.

Lastly, Ohio EPA entered into a \$500,000 grant agreement with the Cleveland Water Department to replace lead service lines at daycare centers. This grant is coupled with funding for water testing at daycares and will help to ensure that the daycare centers have clean and reliable drinking water.



## Supporting Ohio’s Economy

### Ultium Cells LLC (GM and LG Chem Joint Venture)

The Divisions of Air Pollution Control, Drinking and Ground Waters, and Surface Water in the Northeast District worked together to approve multiple projects for the Ultium Cells LLC site in Lordstown, Trumbull County.



Through the COVID-19 pandemic, the divisions met weekly with consultants, local officials, and representatives from General Motors and LG Chem to complete infrastructure and other permitting for their battery-cell manufacturing plant joint venture.

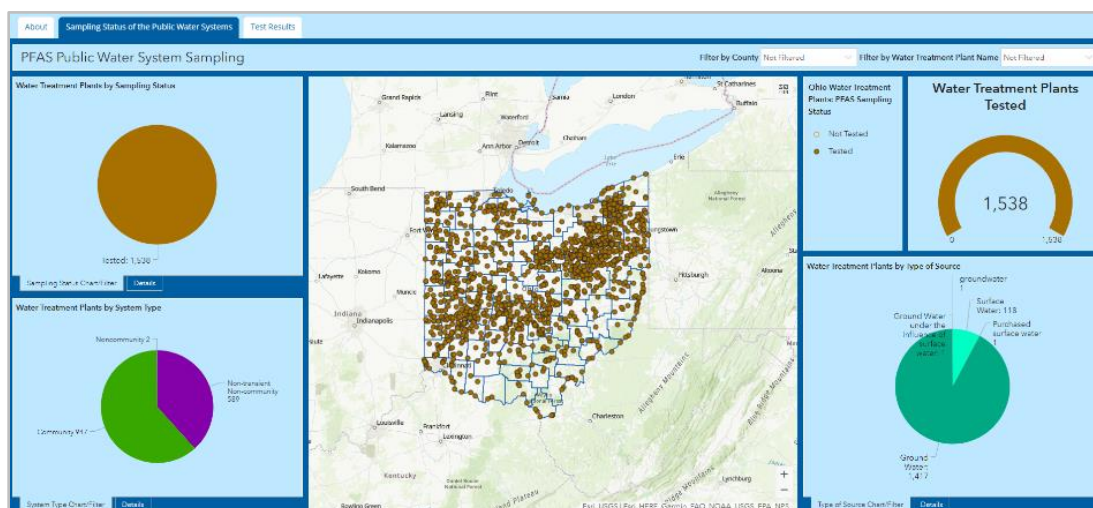
Thanks to the coordination and communication between the Agency and project partners, Ohio EPA was able to review and approve all the projects on established timelines so construction could commence.

## Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

Ohio completed the initial statewide sampling of all community and non-transient public water systems that produce drinking water in December 2020. This effort resulted in sampling more than 1,550 public water systems and delivery of more than 18,000 individual results to Ohio EPA during a 10-month period.

Beyond the initial sampling effort, more than 270 follow-up samples have been collected and analyzed. The initiative revealed that 94.5 percent of the more than 1,550 systems sampled did not have any PFAS detections.

Only two public water systems had detections above Ohio's action levels. Ohio EPA worked with one system to successfully connect to a nearby system and is working with the other to identify and evaluate alternative sources and treatment options. Eighty two public water systems had above detection levels and Ohio EPA is working with each system on follow-up sampling to monitor levels of PFAS in finished water.



## Cleaning Up Legacy Pollution

### Federal Facilities

The federal facility program continues to oversee clean up at sites operated by the Department of Defense and Department of Energy. After years of investigation and planning at the Luckey Beryllium Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program site, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers completed soil excavation and backfill on Phase 1 and 2 as well as demolition of the production building and smaller support buildings. The buildings in particular had presented a significant, attractive hazard to the community and their removal has been a long-term priority.

### Superfund

Ohio EPA serves primarily in a regulatory support role to U.S. EPA for Superfund sites. Ohio EPA assisted in the completion of 11 site assessment projects and four site five-year remedy reviews. Ohio EPA completed a removal referral and updates of the quality assurance project plan and the 44 associated field standard operating procedures for site assessment activities.

## South Side Plating, Galion

South Side Plating, a former electroplater located in Galion, operated from 1971-1986. While active, the facility used acids, caustics, and cyanide, along with chromate and dichromate solutions. After lengthy enforcement negotiations and a determination that the former property owner was financially unable to clean-up the property,

Ohio EPA proceeded with the remediation and closure efforts on the property through use of RCRA grant funds from the U.S. EPA.

During 2020-2021, Ohio EPA contracted with Brownfield Restoration Group (BRG) using the RCRA grant funding to evaluate site conditions at South Side Plating.

In December 2020, approximately 550 tons of contaminated soil was excavated at the site. The excavated soil was disposed of at off-site hazardous and solid waste disposal facilities. Approximately 706 tons of clean backfill was used to help restore the site to its original condition.

Based on Ohio EPA's review of the data, the RCRA closure performance standards were met. The remedies minimized the need for further maintenance at the property and provided protection to human health and the environment by removing the affected contaminated media and backfilling with clean soil.



## Ensuring Safe and Reliable Drinking Water

### Supporting Ohio's Public Water Systems Throughout the Pandemic

DDAGW staff across the state worked closely with Ohio's public water systems and professional operators to ensure operations were maintained and continued to meet Safe Drinking Water Act requirements. The division developed new protocols to conduct virtual well site approvals and water treatment plant visits. In-person site visits resumed during the year to provide critical oversight and technical assistance across the state.

The laboratory certification section within the Division of Environmental Services conducts certification audits of labs performing analyses on public drinking water supplies. At the beginning of the pandemic, the section developed a U.S. EPA-approved process to conduct these audits remotely, ensuring labs meet state and federal analytical requirements and confirming the drinking water is free of contaminants. The section has completed more than 200 remote audits since March 2020.

### Preventing and Addressing Harmful Algal Blooms (HAB)

Ohio EPA manages and coordinates response to algal bloom reports, maintains the website [ohioalgaefinfo.com](https://ohioalgaefinfo.com) and cyanotoxin database, and provides technical assistance and training related to HAB sampling procedures, treatment optimization, reservoir management, and other related topics. HAB program highlights from 2021 include:

- Consulted on more than 77 saxitoxin gene follow-up sampling events at Ohio water systems.
- Finalized the 2020 Ohio HAB Recreational Response Strategy in coordination with ODH and ODNR.
- Applied for and received a U.S. EPA multi-purpose grant to study cyanotoxin co-occurrence at state park beaches to support future revisions of the Ohio's HAB Recreational Response Strategy.
- Began beach sampling using U.S. EPA grant.
- Completed internal review and amendments of the HAB rules for the five-year rule review and placed the rules into interested party review.

## Helping Communities Address Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Needs

In SFY21, Ohio EPA's state revolving fund (SRF) loan programs provided millions of dollars to help Ohio communities improve drinking and wastewater infrastructure.

Through the Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF), Ohio EPA offers financial and technical assistance to public entities (villages, cities, counties, and sewer districts) for wastewater-related projects, including improving wastewater plants, replacing sewers, eliminating sewer infiltration/inflow, addressing unsewered areas, and infrastructure improvement to address combined sewer overflows. During SFY21, Ohio EPA awarded more than \$691 million in WPCLF loans to Ohio communities.

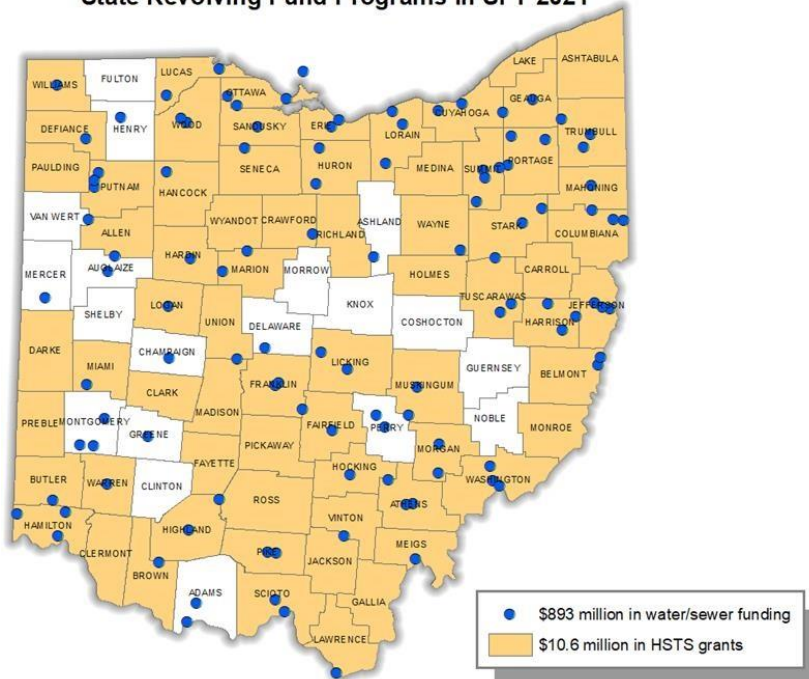
Ohio EPA provides funding to communities to help low- to moderate-income homeowners repair and replace failing home sewage treatment systems (HSTS). In SFY21, 73 local health districts applied for up to \$150,000 each to distribute under the HSTS program. Since the program began, more than \$42 million has been disbursed. To date, 3,048 soil evaluations and design projects have been completed and 3,829 systems have been repaired or replaced. In addition, close to \$28 million in principal forgiveness provided collection capacity in unsewered areas and addressed other infrastructure priorities, particularly in economically disadvantaged and small communities.

Ohio EPA leverages financial resources through our SRF programs to address some of the state's most significant water quality challenges, including harmful algal blooms and combined sewer overflows. Loans totaling nearly \$25 million were awarded during SFY21 through the WPCLF and WSRLA programs for infrastructure improvements and equipment to reduce phosphorus and nitrogen and to address drinking water harmful algal blooms. Five loans totaling nearly \$26 million, many of which were at a zero percent interest rate, were awarded during SFY21 for CSO projects.

### Funding Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs

Ohio EPA's Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA) provides financial assistance to communities for planning, design, construction, and improvements to public water systems. In SFY21, Ohio EPA awarded WSRLA loans totaling close to \$202 million to help communities address drinking water infrastructure needs. Small, disadvantaged communities received about \$7 million in principal forgiveness funding. Authorized under the federal Water Infrastructure Fund Transfer Act (WIFTA), Ohio EPA transferred \$20 million from the WPCLF to the WSRLA to be made available as principal forgiveness for lead service line replacement. The funding is being used for replacing both public and private lead service lines from drinking water systems. The funding will be available through SFY 2022.

State Revolving Fund Programs in SFY 2021



## Improving Water Quality Across the State

### Statewide Fish Consumption

Four fish consumption advisories were reassigned to less restrictive advisories due to decreased contaminant tissue concentrations. Advisories for channel catfish and rock bass on the Sandusky River have improved from one meal per month to one meal per week, in line with the statewide general advisory for one meal per week.

Common carp and bluegill sunfish in Eastwood Lake are now under an unrestricted consumption advisory, which is less restrictive than the statewide advisory.

Additionally, new advisories were established in North Reservoir, Upper Sandusky Reservoir #2, and West Reservoir; all of these advisories were less restrictive than the one meal per week statewide general advisory.

### Mahoning River – Lowellville Dam Removal

While Ohio EPA's biological and chemical river surveys have indicated significant water quality improvements since the 1980s, low-head dams remain the main cause of the Mahoning River's water quality impairments. A watershed action plan (WAP) has been drafted for the Mahoning River which includes removing low-head dams and contaminated sediment behind the dams in the lower Mahoning River.

The Lowellville Dam was the first dam removed in the lower Mahoning River basin, taking place between October 2019 and fall of 2020. In addition to the dam, approximately 12,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment was dredged and removed. The Village of Lowellville received nearly \$2.4 million in funding from Ohio EPA's Water Resource Restoration Sponsorship Program (WRRSP) for this project.

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources has already designated portions of the Mahoning River as a water trail. The river currently supports water recreational opportunities for canoeing, kayaking, and fishing in certain areas. Because of the improved water quality and overall health of fish, the "Do Not Eat" advisories for the Mahoning River were also removed in 2020.



Channel Catfish. Getty Images.



Before



After

## Northwest Ohio Tributaries

Streams draining the former Great Black Swamp areas in northwest Ohio, such as Gordon Creek, South Turkeyfoot Creek, and Beaver Creek (Wood/Henry Co.) displayed dramatically improved stream conditions compared to previous surveys. Sensitive fish, like darters, have rebounded and now flourish in many areas.

The Eastern Sand Darter was a former species of concern in Ohio and was nearly eliminated from northwest Ohio streams by 2000. Now, however, improved conditions have allowed this species to re-establish in smaller and larger streams throughout the Maumee River watershed.

The better biological assemblages observed across the survey area were attributed primarily to improved farming practices, including reduced amounts of siltation in these streams, and improved habitat conditions compared to previous surveys. Other Ohio EPA surveys have also documented similar improvements in streams draining agricultural areas around the state.



South Turkeyfoot Creek at Township Rd. P, River Mile 3.2

## Improving Air Quality

During SFY21 the Division of Air Pollution Control (DAPC) issued more than 1,830 permitting actions and 382 permit-by-rule authorizations. Ohio EPA issued several major installation permits this year, including permits for Petmin USA Incorporated, a pig iron facility located in Ashtabula; Ultium Cells LLC, an auto battery manufacturing plant in Lordstown; and Cargill's new soybean processing and oil extraction operation in Sidney.

### Attaining the 2010 Sulfur Dioxide Standard Statewide

On June 22, 2010, U.S. EPA set a lower one-hour sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) standard of 75 parts per billion (ppb). The Muskingum River area of Ohio continues to be classified as nonattainment for this new standard. Based on current air quality data, the entire state now meets the 2010 sulfur dioxide standard and Ohio EPA is working with U.S. EPA to redesignate the remaining nonattainment area.

### 2015 Ozone Standard

On Oct. 1, 2015, U.S. EPA revised the air quality standard for ozone, replacing the 2008 eight-hour standard of 75 ppb with a standard of 70 ppb. Three Ohio areas – Cleveland, Cincinnati, and Columbus – did not meet the standard and were designated nonattainment by U.S. EPA. On Aug. 21, 2019, the Columbus area, which includes Delaware, Fairfield, Franklin, and Licking counties, was the first area in the country to be recognized by U.S. EPA as attaining this standard. The remaining two areas continue to exceed the standard and Ohio EPA is working to develop plans to bring those areas into attainment.

### Reducing Diesel Emissions

Ohio EPA awarded more than \$22.5 million in grants this year to reduce emissions from aging diesel engines by helping public and private sector fleet owners retire and replace 100 school buses, 64 transit buses, and 129 heavy duty trucks with cleaner alternatives powered by compressed natural gas, propane, all-electric, and new clean diesel engines. These projects are expected to reduce more than 52 tons of annual emissions of nitrogen oxides (ozone smog precursors), fine particulates (soot particles), carbon monoxide, and hydrocarbons.

Funding for these projects combined grants from U.S. EPA under the Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA), Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds awarded to the Ohio Department of Transportation from the Federal Highway Administration, and Ohio's share of the Volkswagen Diesel Mitigation Trust Fund resulting from settlement of a civil case in federal court.

Ohio EPA also used VW Diesel Mitigation Trust Funds to award the first round of funding for Level 2 electric vehicle charging stations. A total of \$3.2 million was awarded to help install 627 new charging ports in 22 Ohio counties.

## Ensuring Safe Management of Solid Waste in Ohio

### Cleaning Up Scrap Tires

For more than two decades, Ohio EPA has been working diligently to address the problem of illegal scrap tire dumping in Ohio. In the late 1980s, an estimated 47 percent of all scrap tires generated in the state were unaccounted for and presumably open dumped or otherwise improperly disposed. This was a huge problem, considering that Ohio citizens generate, on average, 11 million scrap tires per year.

Today, Ohio has a comprehensive regulatory framework for managing scrap tires that covers all aspects of scrap tire management including transportation, collection, storage, recovery, disposal, beneficial use, remediation, and market development. During SFY21, Ohio's scrap tire remediation program completed 145 projects, resulting in the removal of just over 1,200 tons of tires through clean-up efforts totaling approximately \$426,000. Funding for cleanup comes from scrap tire collection and disposal fees.

### Mosquito Control Grants

The drive to address scrap tires stems not only from the vast number generated, but also two main associated health threats – mosquitos and fires. Scrap tires provide an ideal breeding environment for mosquitos because they hold water and organic debris that provide nutrition for the larvae and have insulating properties that can speed up mosquito egg hatching and larval growth. A bite from an infected mosquito can spread the disease to humans and livestock. Scrap tires are also made of very combustible compounds. When burned, the average passenger car tire is estimated to produce more than two gallons of oil, in addition to run-off oil and air pollutants released during fires.

In SFY21, Ohio EPA awarded more than \$756,750 in grant funding to 42 local health departments and one local municipality for **mosquito control activities**, including \$156,000 to remove scrap tires.

Mosquito control grants specifically target:

- mosquito surveillance;
- larval control;
- adult mosquito control, such as spraying where mosquito presence poses a risk to public health;
- community outreach; and
- breeding source reduction, including trash or tire removal.

Grants are issued in collaboration with the Ohio Department of Health's larger effort to mitigate the potential for an outbreak of mosquito-borne viruses. Over the last five years, Ohio EPA and the Ohio Department of Health have awarded \$5.9 million to local health departments and communities for mosquito control programs.

### Waste Reduction/Recycling Top Five\*

#### Residential/Commercial

28.37 percent (4,301,306 tons)

- yard waste – 1,372,447 tons (32 percent)
- corrugated cardboard – 819,488 tons (19 percent)
- metals – 623,614 tons (15 percent)
- all other paper – 438,455 tons (10 percent)
- commingled recyclables – 229,623 tons (5 percent)

#### Industrial

66.07 percent (8,560,651 tons)

- metals – 5,295,489 tons (62 percent)
- corrugated cardboard – 592,554 tons (7 percent)
- other (combined) – 572,322 tons (7 percent)
- FGD\*\* – 553,735 tons (6 percent)
- plastics – 400,247 tons (5 percent)

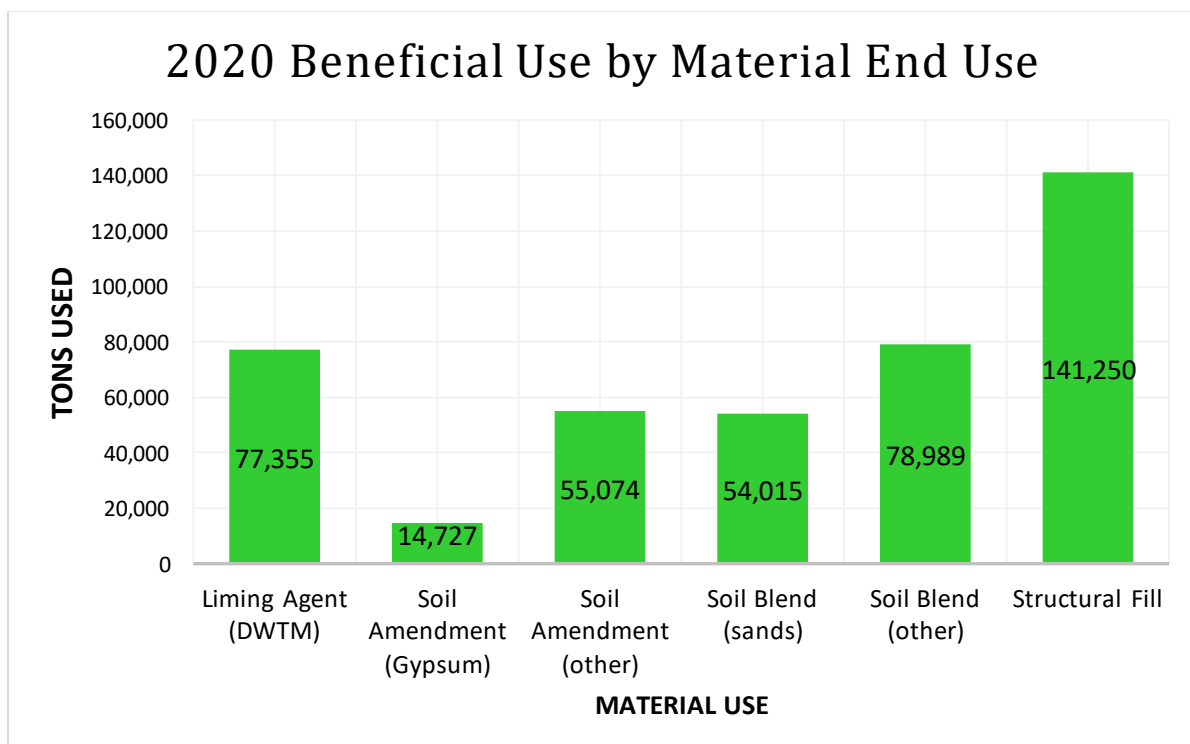
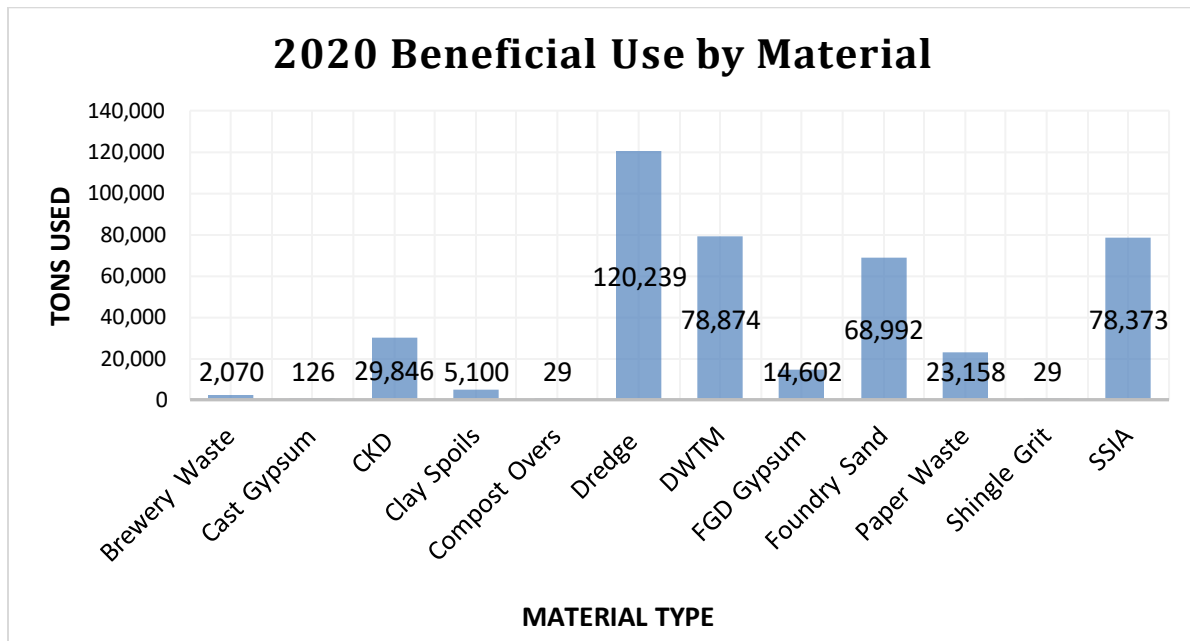
\* The top five recovered materials by weight and percent of total (excluding "all else") in 2020.

\*\* Flue gas desulfurization

## Alternatives to Landfill Disposal through the Beneficial Use Program

Ohio's beneficial use program promotes the diversion of solid waste and industrial waste from landfill disposal in a manner that is protective of human health and the environment. The program includes various permitting mechanisms to authorize specific waste types and end uses. The most common beneficial use activities are land application for agronomic benefit, soil blending, and structural fill.

The total tonnage of material reported beneficially used in 2020 was 421,439 dry tons. Figure 1 summarizes the breakdown of material beneficially used by material type. Materials beneficially used in 2020 included: brewery waste, ground cast gypsum, cement kiln dust (CKD), clay spoils from porcelain manufacturing, composted yard waste that did not meet product specifications (compost overs), dredge materials, drinking water treatment materials (DWTM), flue gas desulfurization gypsum (FGD gypsum), foundry sand, paper waste, shingle grit from shingle manufacturing and sewage sludge incinerator ash (SSIA). Figure 2 summarizes how materials were ultimately used.



## Handling Hazardous Waste

The federally delegated hazardous waste program conducts inspections at operating facilities that generate hazardous waste and oversees treatment storage and disposal of hazardous waste in Ohio. Ohio EPA conducted nearly 600 virtual compliance monitoring evaluations during SFY21. Ohio's compliance rate with hazardous waste laws is high, with only 2.4 percent of our hazardous waste compliance monitoring evaluations resulting in escalated enforcement. The program also ensures that companies provide adequate financial assurance to perform cleanup if needed. Ohio EPA oversees approximately 40 permitted treatment storage or disposal facilities including processing permit applications/renewals and various modifications to existing permits.

This year, the hazardous waste program adopted a significant rule package that allows greater regulatory flexibility for generators of hazardous waste and streamlined the rules for easier use. For example, one of the rules allows for one-time large generators of hazardous waste to maintain a lower hazardous waste generator status which reduces their overall regulatory burden. Nearly 100 generators have taken advantage of this provision.

## Supporting Economic Development through Property Cleanup and Reuse

The voluntary action program (VAP) allows companies to voluntarily investigate environmental contamination and, if needed, clean up a site.

During SFY21, the program granted 27 covenants not to sue to volunteers. Cleanups were completed in 16 counties totaling more than 935 acres, with an additional 17 projects currently under review. VAP staff have also provided thousands of hours of technical assistance on an additional 75 ongoing cleanup projects.

### Promoting Property Reuse

The brownfields program provides free assistance to communities and their partners with brownfield revitalization projects. Our assistance includes conducting environmental site assessments, technical assistance, and training. During SFY21, we assisted 26 communities with site specific assessments totaling over 240 acres of brownfield property across 18 counties.

We also worked to match sites with other funding and by working cooperatively with Ohio Development Services Agency and Bureau of Underground Storage Tanks, the brownfields program provided nine communities with the prerequisite assessments to apply for the Abandoned Gas Station cleanup program, leveraging almost \$2.2 million in cleanup funding. Project successes include business expansion, commercial, and mixed-use development.



**Mithoff Hotel (top) redeveloped for retail, residential, and educational use (bottom).**



**Kahn's Sara Lee facility (left) redeveloped into Rhinegeist Brewery distribution center (right).**

## Remedial Programs

The hazardous waste remedial program includes both corrective action and closure sites. There were four closure certifications completed during SFY21.

For corrective action sites, remediation progress is tracked using various environmental indicators. We achieved a total of 14 environmental indicators at various sites in SFY21. The ready for anticipated use indicator lists the sites that have been restored through remediation to meet residential or commercial/industrial standards. For SFY21, the program achieved this indicator for five sites, putting more than 400 acres of land back into reuse.

The remedial program oversees state-led remediation projects that are not in the voluntary action or hazardous waste program. The division oversaw investigation and cleanup activities at 78 sites in SFY21.

## Outreach, Training, and Citizen Engagement

The Agency training team worked collectively to improve all employees' ability to be engaged, effective, and productive while working remotely.

The team provided software training, short TechieTidbits which highlighted common user tasks, and developed user guides for Agency specific software and applications.

Two cohorts, including 22 Ohio EPA employees, 25 local air agency and 19 local health department employees completed the Agency's Inspector Training Academy.

Ohio EPA Course Offerings FY21	Course Offerings	Total Attendance
Live Learning Sessions	26	1,354
Live Training (Not Learning Sessions or ITA)	34	945
ITA Sessions (Autumn 2020 and Spring 2021)	8	66
New Courses in Ohio Learn	49	NA
New Courses in Ohio Learn - Citizen Portal	31	169
Courses in Ohio Train	1	32
Learning Sessions Provided to Other State Agencies	2	16

## Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Through coordination with DAS, the Agency provided *Implicit Bias: Stereotypes and Microaggressions* training to improve workplace culture and employee engagement. The recording of the training has been developed into an eLearning available to all Agency employees in Ohio Learn and it has also been made available to ODOT and DPS training teams.

Through coordination with Ohio University, the Agency provided *Fostering a Positive Culture and Climate in the Workplace* to all employees. Ohio University also provided a virtual strength finder workshop for senior management in October 2020. Three additional events are planned in coordination with Ohio University for the next fiscal year.

## Building Leadership Skills

Ohio EPA's leadership program is provided annually in collaboration with Ohio University. The 2020 cohort completed eleven workshops and the 2021 cohort has completed four of nine workshops planned during the calendar year.

In early 2021, the Agency began holding management collaboration forums to allow supervisors and managers to share new skills, brainstorm ideas, and identify topics for future discussions. These peer-led collaborative spaces enhance dialogue among management regarding techniques, resources, and challenges on various topics including technology and employee engagement.

## Helping to Grow Young Minds

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Agency efforts encouraging students to explore environmental science and engineering careers continued this year, pivoting to virtual formats during 2020. The Ohio Environmental Education Fund (OEEF) sponsored the Future City engineering competition for middle school teams, and the Ohio Envirothon challenging high school teams to demonstrate their knowledge of Ohio soils, water, forests, wildlife, and current issues.

Ohio EPA provided \$62,500 to support State Science Day and 25 Governor's Awards for Excellence in Environmental Protection Research by students in grades 7-12. Eleven rising college seniors received \$5,000 scholarships to help them complete their degree programs at Cleveland State University, Hiram College, the Ohio State University, Miami University, the University of Cincinnati, and Wittenberg University.

Ohio EPA staff members partnered with the Environmental Education Council of Ohio and 450 volunteer career ambassadors statewide to offer online career presentations and mentoring to Ohio schools and youth groups, reaching thousands of students.

## Leveraging Technology

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### Electronic Plans

During 2020 the Agency moved to electronic plan submissions as an option for external customers. By expediting the development of the electronic plans software (ePlans), the Agency has improved the submission process for applicants and created flexibility for Agency review.

### eBusiness Center transition to Innovate Ohio Platform

Ohio EPA's eBusiness Center (eBiz), a custom web tool, provides services to both internal staff and the regulated community. In November 2020, approximately 55,000 user accounts were integrated with the State of Ohio's Innovate Ohio Platform (IOP) for a simplified user experience, enhanced security, and a one-stop portal for all Ohioans seeking to do business with state agencies.

## Providing Compliance Assistance

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### Helping Businesses with Environmental Regulations

Ohio EPA's Office of Compliance Assistance and Pollution Prevention (OCAPP) provides free and confidential assistance to help businesses comply with environmental requirements. Agency staff responded to more than 13,000 environmental assistance requests from Ohio businesses, communities, and other organizations. Assistance included completing more than 2,600 forms, including permit applications and other Ohio EPA paperwork, and participation in 40 presentations and training events which reached more than 1,160 people.

### Working with Wastewater Operators

The Agency's wastewater compliance assistance unit (CAU) staff conduct on-site technical assistance visits and work directly with small wastewater treatment plants to address their compliance issues. Many communities have not only resolved problems, but also identified ways to save money through energy efficiency and other best management practices. During SFY21, the CAU conducted numerous virtual compliance visits at wastewater treatment plants throughout Ohio.

## Promoting Environmentally Sustainable Practices

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The Ohio Materials Marketplace (OMM), a free, online platform for Ohio businesses, non-profits and government organizations to help reuse materials that would otherwise go to landfills, has more than 1,000 members, saving over \$220,00 while diverting nearly four million pounds of material from Ohio landfills through material reuse exchanges.

Ohio EPA's Encouraging Environmental Excellence (E3) Program recognizes organizations for achievements in environmental stewardship. Eight Gold Level, and seven Silver Level E3 awards were provided to businesses and other organizations.

The Encouraging Environmental Excellence in Education Program (E4) recognized nine K – 12 public or private schools for their achievements in environmental stewardship. And seven communities were recognized in the newly created Encouraging Environmental Excellence in Communities program.

Ohio EPA's first free virtual compliance assistance conference was held over three weeks, Sept. 21 through Oct. 8, 2020, with 7,630 people logging on to 20 different sessions and interacting virtually. DEFA hosted 17 webinars covering a variety of topics, including environmental compliance, funding, and reporting. More than 5,460 people participated in DEFA's webinars or viewed our archived library of training materials. DEFA also launched a new series of webinars focused on those environmental issues that have an impact at the local level. These seven webinars occurred throughout the year and cover a wide range of topics.

The Recycling and Litter Prevention grant program completed an analysis indicating that during the 39 years since the program's inception, more than \$240 million has been awarded to more than 4,400 projects. This includes a three-year, \$211,000 project, to remove non-recyclable trash in recycling in Akron, Centerville, Cincinnati, Columbus, and Fairfield, with more than 105,000 households benefitting from these efforts.

## Emergency Response

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### Participation in Ohio Emergency Management Agency Graded Nuclear Exercise

Ohio EPA manages emergency response to problems with public water systems and coordinates with Ohio EMA to ensure the ability to provide drinking water to the residents of the state during emergencies. As a part of this coordination DDAGW's Operations Section participated in Ohio EMA's graded Davis Besse nuclear exercise.

### Spill Response

The Office of Emergency Response (OER) operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to respond to environmental emergencies. Because OER fulfills a critical function at Ohio EPA, OER maintained its response readiness and deployment capabilities during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, this fiscal year's field deployment metrics include enhanced consultation with emergency response management prior to deployment. Each deployment decision was approved by the OER chain of command.

A total of 1,782 valid incidents were reported to Ohio EPA's spill hotline, including:

- 323 reports of non-emergency matters;
- 334 incidents that required an immediate or delayed field response; and
- 1,125 were incidents managed by OER via phone through on scene local response partners and follow up by OER responders.

The top six product types of spilled material removed/recovered during environmental emergency response action are listed below. The amount shown is the amount spilled and does not include any other material generated in the process of mitigating the imminent threat posed by the spilled material.

- 112,300 gallons of manure.
- 36,848 gallons of spilled fuel (diesel, gasoline, fuel oil, etc.).
- 36,175 gallons of brine.
- 12,132 gallons of crude oil.
- 9,175 gallons of HAZMAT and liquid corrosives.
- 5,130 gallons of transformer oil.

## Rules – Summary (from 07/01/2020 – 06/30/2021)

The attached table contains those rules which were filed with the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review. This includes all rules adopted, amended, rescinded, and filed as no change within the summary timeframe, the number of rules in the rule package, a brief description of the rule package, and an indication of whether or not the rules were reviewed under the five-year rule review provision, and whether or not the rules went through the Common Sense Initiative Office.

Division	Rule Package	Rule Package Description	# of Rules	5YRR	CSIO Review	Effective Date
DDAGW	Underground Injection Control	This is the rule regarding financial responsibility for closure and post closure care.	1	Y	Y	No-change - Not applicable
DAPC	Toxic Release Inventory	This is the applicability, record keeping, and compliance and enforcement rules for the chapter.	3	Y	Y	No-change - Not applicable
DDAGW	Consumer Confidence Reports	Describes and establishes the minimum requirements for the content of the annual report that a community water system shall deliver to its customers.	3	Y	Y	No-change - Not applicable
DAPC	Inspection and Maintenance	Contain the requirements for the enhanced automobile inspection and maintenance program (E-Check).	3	Y	Y	No-change - Not applicable
DAPC	Accidental Release Prevention	Contain the Accidental Release Prevention Program, or Risk Management Program (RMP).	13	Y	Y	No-change - Not applicable
SERC	State Emergency Response Commission	Address the administration and implementation of Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3750, Emergency Planning regulations.	48	Y	Y	No-change - Not applicable
DDAGW	Disadvantage Community Loans	Revised the definition of Disadvantaged assistance, changed the Pre-application to Nomination, removed the requirement to submit a complete application separate from the WSRLA loan application, clarified that the poverty rate in the area served by the applicant is determined by the most recent data of the US Census Bureau, and clarified the percentage of capitation grant that may be available to provide subsidies to disadvantaged communities.	2	Y	Y	09/10/2020
DERR	Generator Improvement, Pharma, Air Bags	New rules created to streamline standards for handling hazardous waste pharmaceuticals; include a prohibition on sewerage hazardous waste pharmaceuticals, which is already in effect in Ohio; and, amend the nicotine waste listing (P075) to not include FDA-approved over-the-counter nicotine replacement therapies reducing the burden of managing these nicotine wastes. New rules to expedite the removal of defective Takata airbag inflators from vehicles and directs this waste for environmentally sound and safe disposal.	133	Y	Y	10/05/2020

Division	Rule Package	Rule Package Description	# of Rules	5YRR	CSIO Review	Effective Date
DDAGW	Laboratory Certification	Allows laboratories to obtain either Ohio EPA laboratory certification, certification by the National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (NELAP) by accepting NELAP certification, or other acceptable certifying authorities; Updated the Ohio EPA Laboratory Manual for the Microbiological Analyses of Public Drinking Water and the Ohio EPA Laboratory Manual for the Chemical Analyses of Public Drinking Water, both of which are incorporated by reference in the rules; Updated recordkeeping and reporting requirements; Corrected minor spelling and grammatical errors and outdated references in manuals and rules.	16	Y	Y	10/26/2020
DMWM	Solid Waste Management Districts (SWMD)	Amended the rule to incorporate the reduction and recycling goals established by the 2020 State Solid Waste Management Plan.	1	Y	Y	12/01/2020
DAPC	Toxic Chemical Release Reporting (TRI)	Amendments were made to the rules to bring the rules in line with federal requirements, to correct minor typographical errors, to fulfill the formatting requirements of the LSC, to add and update citation information on materials referenced.	18	Y	Y	12/12/2020
DAPC	Power Plant Efficiency (3745-107)	Adoption to comply with the requirements of U.S. EPA's "Affordable Clean Energy Rule" (ACE rule), found in Federal Register Volume 84, page 32520. The ACE rule mandates that states develop enforceable carbon dioxide emission standards of performance for large coal-fired electric generating units (EGUs).	4	N	Y	12/12/2020
DERR	VAP Incorporation by Reference	Update the reference to Ohio EPA's Sample Collection and Evaluation of Vapor Intrusion to Indoor Air guidance document to incorporate the March 2020 update.	1	N	Y	12/29/2020
DDAGW	Organic chemical monitoring requirements (3745-81-24)	Adoption of a triggered approach to diagnosing the best treatment options for consecutive systems who have elevated Disinfection byproduct (DBP) levels.	1	Y	Y	01/01/2021
DMWM	MSW Landfills – Permits	Where appropriate, the term “director” has been changed to “Ohio EPA,” to lessen the number of instances where an action of the director is mandatory while keeping it open for certain situations when the authorization can go through the director. Also, in a move to eventually retire 3745-27-99, the professional engineer rule, wording is added to require the signature and seal of a professional engineer as appropriate.	8	Y	Y	01/1/2021

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DSW	Human Health Criteria	Amended to be reflect the most recent human health numbers from U.S. EPA's 2015 updated chemical criteria, ORSANCO's 2015 Pollution Control Standards (PCS), and maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) promulgated under the Safe Drinking Water Act.	3	Y	Y	01/18/2021
DAPC	Asbestos Licensing	Amended to allow Ohio EPA to apply to U.S. EPA for approval of our asbestos licensing program and demonstrate how our program meets the requirements found in the "Asbestos Model Accreditation Plan" 40 CFR part 763, Appendix C to Subpart E.	8	N	Y	01/31/2021
DDAGW	Underground Injection Control	Revisions to correct citations, clarify that Permits to Drill last 5 years, and correct statute citations.	3	Y	Y	02/04/2021
DSW	Credible Data	Revisions to improve the quality of data and the administrative aspects: the extension of timeframes for submission and updates to definitions, method references (ex. Field Methods for Evaluating Primary Headwater Streams), and requirements for qualified data collectors.	5	N	Y	03/01/2021
DSW	Water Quality Standards	Drainage basins – Maumee, Sandusky, Huron, Portage 1. Changing beneficial use designations for specific water bodies. 2. Adding water bodies that are currently undesignated to the rule. 3. Verifying existing beneficial use designations already listed in the rule.	4	Y	Y	04/21/2021
DMWM	Industrial or Manufacturing Waste Landfills	These regulations govern industrial waste and residual waste landfills. The rescission the rules in OAC Chapter 3745-29 and amending OAC Chapter 3745-30 to regulate the combined waste streams that will be referred to as industrial or manufacturing waste (IMW).	23	Y	Y	05/28/2021
DAPC	Total Reduced Sulfur	Contains limits, testing and recordkeeping requirements for emissions of reduced sulfur from Kraft Pulp mills in the state of Ohio. Minor amendments.	4	Y	Y	6/17/2021
DMWM	Municipal Solid Waste Landfills Explosive Gas Monitoring	Updates to reflect statutory changes and amend to be compliant with LSC and Ohio EPA rule writing standards. The content has also been reorganized for better clarity.	1	Y	Y	07/01/2021
SERC	State Emergency Response Commission	Amendments were made to fix simple typos, simplify incorporation by reference citation language by referencing only the most up-to-date Code of Federal Regulations and add recent federal rule language to be consistent with the federal Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA).	12	Y	Y	07/06/2021

Division	Rule Package	Rule Package Description	# of Rules	5YRR	CSIO Review	Effective Date
DDAGW	Primary Drinking Water Standards	Amendments for grammar, reference corrections, and minor revisions for identification of sample requirements. Clarification that failure to comply with reporting requirements except for the requirement to submit a general plan is a treatment technique violation.	5	Y	Y	JCARR jurisdiction ended, not yet final filed
DAPC	Accidental Release Prevention	Amended to do the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Address the November 20, 2019 Pre-Publication Notice signed by the USEPA Administrator that either rescinds, retains and/or modifies requirements to the final 2017 Risk Management Plan Amendments Rule.</li> <li>2. Add definitions for Confidential Business Information and LEPC (local emergency planning committee).</li> <li>3. Correlate with US EPA's annual notification drill requirements and emergency response agency coordination efforts for all covered facilities.</li> <li>4. Reflect exercise requirements for responding facilities, including field and tabletop exercises.</li> <li>5. Reflect the current terminology for Safety Data Sheets (formerly Material Safety Data Sheets).</li> <li>6. Require a public meeting to be held within 90 days of an RMP reportable incident that had offsite impacts.</li> </ol>	40	Y	Y	JCARR jurisdiction ended, not yet final filed
DAPC	Inspection and Maintenance	Contain the requirements for the enhanced automobile inspection and maintenance program (E-Check). Minor amendments requested by JCARR.	4	Y	Y	JCARR jurisdiction ended, not yet final filed
DAPC	Anti-tampering	Contains the prohibition on tampering with or disabling emission control equipment on motor vehicles and the requirements for inspections of vehicles to determine if tampering has occurred. These rules implement a portion of Title II of the Clean Air Act in Ohio.	3	Y	Y	JCARR jurisdiction ends 6/27/21.



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